

INTRODUCTION OF THE RESPONSIBLE OWNERSHIP OF PUBLIC LANDS ACT

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2008

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Responsible Ownership of Public Lands Act with Representatives EMANUEL, RAHALL and HINCHEY. At a time when our constituents are paying more than \$4 per gallon at the pump, oil companies are sitting on millions of acres of land that they hold the drilling rights to but are not producing on. They need to either use it or lose it.

There's a myth that Republicans and Big Oil are perpetuating: that oil companies don't have access to enough places to drill for oil, that we need to allow drilling off our beaches on the East and West coast and in our most pristine places such as the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. However, this argument is nothing more than a drilling decoy.

The reality is that roughly 80 percent of offshore oil and gas reserves are located in areas where drilling is already allowed. Moreover, oil and gas companies right now own the drilling rights to 68 million acres offshore and onshore that they are not even using. These oil companies, who are raking in record profits, are not producing oil or gas on the vast majority of public land under their control. Offshore, Big Oil is producing on only about 23 percent of the land they hold, while onshore, companies are producing on roughly 27 percent of the acres to which they hold the drilling rights. Apparently Big Oil is more interested in pumping up prices and pumping up their own profits rather than pumping more oil.

Indeed, while Exxon Mobil has increased spending on exploration and drilling by \$3 billion over the last five years, it has increased spending on schemes to prop up the price of its stock by nearly \$26 billion per year during that same time period. Meanwhile, Exxon spent only \$10 million investing in developing renewable technologies last year.

The Responsible Ownership of Public Lands Act would assess an escalating fee over time on land energy companies have leased but are not using for production. This fee would be a mere \$5 per acre per year for the first three years of non-production but then increase to \$25 per acre for the fourth year and \$50 per acre in the fifth year and any subsequent years, providing a strong incentive for the oil companies to stop hoarding these leases and start using them.

The revenue raised from these fees will go towards developing renewable energy and investing in energy efficiency that will reduce our dependence on oil and reduce energy prices for American Consumers. The revenue will also be used to fund the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program and the Weatherization Assistance Program, which helps permanently reduce energy bills for low income families by making their homes more energy efficient.

With oil companies continuing to sit on these millions of acres as the price of gas skyrockets, it is time to tell Big Oil to start producing or start paying. Big Oil is trying to play Uncle Sam for Uncle Sucker and we're not going to allow it.

THE PASSING OF PAT TOBIN, FOUNDER OF TOBIN & ASSOCIATES

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2008

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, it was with great sorrow that I learned of the loss of my dear friend, Pat Tobin.

Pat was the Founder and CEO of Tobin and Associates, one of the most prominent minority, female-owned public relations firms whose clientele included celebrities, entertainment companies, non-profit/political organizations and national/international corporations.

Pat was more than an astute business woman, she was a "people person." She always had a big, beautiful smile that graced her face at all times. She was the epitome of "grace under pressure."

Pat was a mover and shaker in the public relations industry. She was a founder of the National Black Public Relations Society and a committed member of the National Association of Black Journalists.

She was a dedicated activist for causes that impacted minorities, women and youth and she secured financial support from corporations and philanthropic organizations for a variety of important initiatives. She was selfless and dedicated in everything she did. She was regarded as a standard bearer for public relations professionals of all races due to her innovative, hard working and compassionate nature.

One of her NABJ colleagues wrote the following poem about Pat:

I will not mourn Pat Tobin.

I will not be sad.

I will not let her passing depress me.

Instead I will continue to use the model she shared for life's personal journey.

I will take the attitude that personal and professional setbacks are an opportunity to make one-self stronger.

I will look at seemingly insurmountable road-blocks as mental, emotional and sometimes physical challenges as opportunities to become a force to be reckoned with.

I will choose to be what she believed all of us are capable of.

I extend my most heartfelt condolences to Pat's family, her colleagues, her many close friends in Los Angeles and around the country. She will be sorely missed.

A TRIBUTE TO ROSEMARIE LANE

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2008

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the dedication, unwavering service and steadfast commitment of Rosemarie Lane to the veterans of Maine.

Rosemarie was born in Brooklyn, New York. She joined the Army at age 19. She served in France and Germany, and volunteered to serve in Vietnam. She retired in 1986 as a Master Sergeant.

Her service to our country is not limited to the military. She recently retired from the Inter-

nal Revenue Service after many years of dedicated public service.

As a Life Member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Rosemarie has served as Post Commander and District 9 Commander. She was elected the 2003–2004 State Commander for the VFW Department of Maine, giving her the distinction as the first female VFW State Commander in New England. Since completing her term as State Commander, she has continued to serve the VFW on its National Legislative Committee.

Rosemarie is a staunch advocate for veterans, working tireless hours defending the rights and benefits she and her fellow veterans have earned. She embodies the spirit, commitment, and passion that all veterans' advocates should possess.

I can always trust that Rosemarie will tell me exactly what she believes. I value her guidance, her candor, and her friendship. Through her work, she has brought honor and credit to herself, her family, her community, the VFW and her Nation. I extend my sincere thank you to her for her many years of service on behalf of our veterans.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL RANDAL R. CASTRO

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2008

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me recognize the service of Major General Randal R. Castro as his career comes to an end after 33 years of dedicated service in the United States Army.

Major General Castro began his distinguished career upon graduation from the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York in 1975, where he received his bachelor's degree. In addition to a master's degree in civil engineering from Stanford University, his military education includes the Engineer Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, the U.S. Marine Corps Command and Staff College, and the U.S. Naval War College where he earned a master's degree in national security and strategic studies and subsequently served as a Professor.

During his 33 years of service to the nation, Major General Castro held a variety of command and staff assignments. These range from the platoon to the army level, held engineer battalion and brigade command, served as Commanding General, U.S. Army Pacific and South Atlantic Engineer Divisions, and served as Special Assistant to the Commanding General, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command. Prior to assuming his current duties, Major General Castro served concurrently as Commandant, U.S. Army Engineer School, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, and Commanding General, U.S. Army Maneuver Support Center, also at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, where he oversaw the Army's Engineer, Military Police and Chemical Schools.

Major General Castro's decorations and awards include: the Distinguished Service Medal; Legion of Merit (with three oak leaf clusters); Meritorious Service Medal (with two oak leaf clusters); Army Commendation Medal (with four oak leaf clusters); Navy Commendation Medal; Army Achievement Medal; and the Parachutist Badge.

Major General Castro currently serves as the Deputy Director, Defense Threat Reduction Agency. In this capacity, Major General Castro helps safeguard America and its allies from Weapons of Mass Destruction by providing capabilities to reduce, eliminate, and respond to the threats posed by such weapons. I'm certain that the Members of the House will join me in honoring Major General Randal R. Castro for his outstanding service to our country.

ALEXANDER "SANDY" NININGER

HON. RON KLEIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2008

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Second Lieutenant Alexander "Sandy" Nininger, a heroic American soldier and the first United States recipient of the Medal of Honor in World War II.

Lieutenant Nininger entered service in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and bravely served his country during the Second World War as a member of the 57th Infantry Regiment of the Philippine Scouts. He gave his life near Abucay, Bataan, Philippine Islands in January of 1942. He fought valiantly into relentless enemy fire even after sustaining three wounds.

In his hometown of Fort Lauderdale stands a Sandy Nininger statue and WWII memorial where annual Memorial Day services are held in recognition of his service and that of his fellow veterans. Their efforts have provided Americans with security and peace of mind, and I join all Americans in gratitude for their sacrifices.

On June 14th, which has been designated as National Flag Day, Americans honor those who fought to protect this country and the ideals for which the American flag stands. Sandy Nininger fought for America, and I think it is only appropriate to pay respects to him on Flag Day.

Madam Speaker, I believe that America owes its military heroes the utmost appreciation and I am honored to represent thousands that served our country honorably in our nation's military, just as Sandy Nininger did. On this Flag Day, I am proud to remember a distinguished local and national hero, Sandy Nininger.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2008

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I was unavoidably delayed and missed the vote on Final Passage of H.R. 6003, the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act (rollcall 400). H.R. 6003 passed by a vote of 311–104; Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 400.

I would also like to offer my firm support for the Passenger Rail and Improvement Act, H.R. 6003. At a time when gas prices have reached a national average of \$4.05 a gallon,

this bipartisan legislation is both timely and necessary to provide travelers with alternative transportation. This bill would authorize nearly \$15 billion in funding for the national passenger railroad over the next five years. It encourages the development of new and improved intercity passenger rail services by creating a new grant program for intercity passenger rail services. It also paves the way for a high-speed rail system between Washington and New York City.

Today it is increasingly evident that the United States cannot rely solely upon further massive construction of highways and airports to meet its transportation needs. To handle the tremendous tide of travelers, auto, air and bus system must be supplemented by a swift and efficient rail passenger service. It is vital to restore an essential balance to the total transportation complex.

For nearly 40 years, Amtrak has provided intercity passenger railroad service, operating approximately 44 routes and over 22,000 miles of track. A record of 25.8 million passengers took Amtrak in the last fiscal year. With the climbing costs of driving, Amtrak expects ridership to approach 28 million this fiscal year. The passage of this legislation allows Amtrak to meet the increased demand by bringing much needed improvements to its infrastructure. In an effort to address our energy problems, enhanced intercity railway provides a cost-efficient solution. I support this legislation as we seek to offer relief from high fuel costs and alternatives to the American people.

HONORING MR. LI KA-SHING,
GLOBAL PHILANTHROPIST, EN-
TREPRENEUR, CORPORATE
LEADER

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2008

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Mr. Li Ka-shing of Hong Kong and to celebrate his extraordinary life, service, and achievements on the occasion of his 80th birthday.

The vast accomplishments in business of this global icon place him easily among the most successful and respected entrepreneurs of our day—Gates, Buffett, Branson and others. But his contributions in philanthropy, a new concept Mr. Li is introducing in China, also rank him among those business giants—Carnegie, Rockefeller, and Vanderbilt—who understood the benevolent, ennobling uses of wealth to strengthen and lift others.

No one who examines the life of Mr. Li Ka-shing can help but appreciate the power of purpose not only in shaping one's life but destiny as well. He has shown what a life guided by deep, constant purpose and fueled by optimism, determination, and industry can achieve—despite odds and obstacles that may appear insurmountable. With purpose, he has built companies and changed lives with compassionate giving.

As a child, in 1940, Li Ka-shing fled China with his family to escape the Japanese invasion. The family arrived destitute in Hong Kong, with little prospects for the future. His father was an educator, his mother a loving and noble influence in his life. As a young

boy, Mr. Li showed great academic promise. But circumstances and necessity—his father was stricken with tuberculosis and later died—forced him to abandon his dream of receiving an education. At 12, he had to leave school to work in a factory to support his family. Despite his young age, the power of purpose had taken hold of him as he pushed himself to endure grueling 16-hour workdays. By 22, Mr. Li's hard work and perseverance had earned him the ownership of his own plastics factory, Cheung Kong Industries.

He was known for his honesty, his loyalty and customer service. There is a well-known story in Hong Kong how on one occasion, a large contract with a U.S. business was cancelled after Mr. Li had completed the manufacturing. The business had decided to change direction in what it wanted. Mr. Li not only did not charge the U.S. businessman who had changed his mind, but proceeded to complete the second order as directed. This single act later opened the door to Mr. Li and his company becoming one of the key producers of toys and home decorations for American companies. In fact, to this day, some still refer to him as G.I. Joe, as it was Mr. Li and his company that manufactured that popular line of toys in the '60s and '70s.

Building on this foundation, Mr. Li expanded into real estate investment, creating a company that was listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange in 1972. Meanwhile, Cheung Kong continued its rapid growth trajectory with acquisitions of Hutchison Whampoa, a British trading company that has been active in Hong Kong since the 1820's, and Hong Kong Electric Holdings Limited in 1979 and 1985, respectively.

Today, Mr. Li leads a vast global business empire as chairman of Cheung Kong Holdings Limited and Hutchison Whampoa Limited. Cheung Kong Holdings Limited is the flagship of the Cheung Kong Group, which has business operations in 57 countries around the world and employs about 260,000 staff. In Hong Kong alone, the Group includes eight listed companies with a combined market capitalization of approximately US\$122 billion.

The Cheung Kong Group's businesses encompass such diverse areas as property development and investment, real estate agency and estate management, hotels, telecommunications and e-commerce, finance and investments, retail, ports and related services, energy, infrastructure projects and materials, media, and biotechnology. Hutchison Whampoa Limited is a Fortune Global 500 company.

Mr. Li's personal holdings confer the distinction of being Asia's richest man. But his deep humility and gratitude—coupled with an intrinsic understanding of the true value of money and the good it can do—have never allowed him to flaunt his wealth or his position. True to the lessons of his humble beginnings and hardships and his Horatio Alger story, he has found that wealth, when used to serve others and not self, can be employed with great purpose and power.

Mr. Li believes that an equitable society can only be achieved if individuals are ready to do their part. In 1980, he established a charitable foundation—the Li Ka Shing Foundation. Its mission is to enhance the impact of its philanthropy through two strategic objectives: to nurture a culture of giving and to foster creativity, constructive engagement, and sustainability